total outlay of Rs. 163.10 crore which was increased in stages to an outlay of Rs. 258 crore. This outlay was tobe shared between the Government of India and the State Government of Madhya pradesh in the ratio of 75:25. the Central Government has already released its entire share of Rs. 193.50 crore. The State Government has been ifnromed that the funds required by them for continuously running of rehabilitation programmes as envisaged in the Action Plan should be provided as a part of the State Plan in consultation with the Planning Commission.

Vacation of stay orders against drug companies

322. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government areconsidering to move Supreme Court to seek quashing *enmasse* a flurry of stay orders, the leading multinational and domestic drug companies obtained over the past few years on notices served on them, for crediting estimated overcharged funds to a Drug Price Equalisation Account;

(b) if so, what has been the outcome of Government's move in this regard; and

(c) to what extent the Supreme Court has given its verdict?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) the application has not been moved in theSurpreme Court.

(c) In view of (b) above, question does not arise.

Preference to fertilizer factories in price fixation policy

†323. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a ~~fact~~ that preference has been given by Government and the members of the Committee, in price fixation policy for urea factories. ~~to owners of factories~~ than to the interests of farmers;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the benefits of money spent by Government, with a view to help farmers, actually reach the big industrial houses instead of the farmers; and

(d) if so,the details of steps being taken in the interests of farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (d) In order to make available fertilizers at affordable prices, the Government provides subsidy on urea and concession on decontrolled phosphatic and potassic fertilizers. Government fixes the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) in case of urea, the only controlled fertilizer and indicates MRPs in case of decontrolled P & K fertilizers. the MRPs of Single Super Phasphates are indicated by respective State Governments. The fertilizers are sold at uniform MRP and indicative MRPs, as the case may be, to the farmers throughout the country, which are far less than the cost of production of fertilizers. Thus, the benefit is passed on to the farmers in the form of uniform and subsidized MRPs.

New rules for subsidy on urea

†324. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to frame new rules for providing subsidy on urea;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when a decision is likely to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) Government is at present in the process of formulating a new pricing policy for urea units keeping in view the recommendations of Expenditure Reforms Commission for replacing the existing RPS. Proposal is at present under consideration of Group of Ministers. The proposed policy would be in the shape of Group

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.